

# 11 Panthers Jailed After 4-Hour Siege

From News Dispatches

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 8 — A 40-man police task force sent to Black Panther headquarters before dawn today was repulsed by gunfire and then held off for more than four hours by automatic weapons and home-made hand grenades.

It was the latest in a series of confrontations between police and the Panthers around the country.

A police force eventually totalling 300 men used dynamite, tear gas and rifles to force the 11 Panthers out of their two-story headquarters on Central Avenue, a run-down commercial artery near Watts.

The defenders, barricaded behind sand bags and wearing gas masks and bullet-proof vests, lobbed hand

grenades and tossed back tear gas canisters as quickly as they were fired into the building.

Three persons inside the headquarters and three policemen were wounded. One of the officers was shot at times.

Police seized two submachine guns, three sawed-off shotguns, eight handguns, 12 carbines and rifles and a quantity of ammunition.

There was no trouble at raids on two other Panther locations, where a total of 14 persons were arrested.

Police said there have been a series of attempts to ambush police officers in recent months.

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Armed police surround one of the suspects who surrendered after four hours.



Associated Press

Policemen provide cover as other officers enter the headquarters of the Black Panthers in Los Angeles. Three of-

ficers were shot during the four-hour siege, which ended after tear gas was thrown into the Panthers' building.

## PANTHERS, From A1

Today's raids, a spokesman said, stemmed from an incident last week in which an officer who went to Panther headquarters to check a complaint about an overly loud juke box was ordered to leave within three seconds by persons holding a pistol and shotgun.

In another incident last week, officers said, two patrolmen saw a man stationed behind a machine gun at a window in the headquarters.

Acting Police Chief Harold Gates later told a news conference that officers expected "felonious resistance" at the headquarters. He said it was Panther doctrine that "unwarranted entry would be met with armed resistance."

As officers of a special tactical squad stood by on roofs across the street, three officers went to the door and said, "Police officers, open up." When there was

no response, they used a fire department ram to batter in the door.

"As soon as they dropped the ram and started to enter," said Inspector Charles Reese, "they were met with a fusillade of bullets. It dropped three of them. From then on it was a fire fight."

After the initial flurry of shots, officers dragged away the wounded and took up positions on rooftops, behind utility poles and cars, and at the corners of buildings.

### Roof Dynamited

They urged the occupants to come out, saying at one point with a bullhorn: "Come out with your hands up or we'll come in."

Police said they fired 33 tear gas projectiles toward the headquarters' second-story windows and threw 57

other canisters inside. Some were dropped through a skylight by officers on the roof. At one point, officers set off dynamite charges on the roof in an attempt to blast a hole for entry.

Officers said the occupants threw out four grenades made of pipe filled with an explosive, which burst in the street but injured no one.

Sixteen blocks were cordoned off and classes at a nearby school were dismissed.

The congressman for the Watts district, Augustus Hawkins (D), and five other local Negro leaders came to the shoot-out scene to broadcast an appeal to those inside to surrender.

The Panthers finally came out when police gave them a third and final ultimatum to surrender.

The area around the Panther headquarters was a shambles. Bullet holes pockmarked building fronts and shards of broken glass were strewn on the street.

Officers said some of the shots came from the roof of the Panther building. "There's no doubt about it," they said, "the Panthers were expecting trouble and were on the lookout. We anticipated rifle fire when we went there."

The occupants, police said, had gas masks. Downstairs windows had been covered with plywood. Upstairs windows had been barricaded with sandbags, with ports for guns, officers said.

Police said there was no relationship between the raids here and Panther-police troubles in other cities. In Chicago last week, two Panther leaders were killed, four others wounded, and two policemen shot in a raid.

In the past two years encounters with police have cost the lives of 28 Black Panthers, and their headquarters have been raided in such cities as Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, Indianapolis, Detroit and New Haven, Conn.

State Sen. Mervin Dymally, a Negro Democrat in whose district today's incident occurred, told a newsman, "We need to raise some national voice against what is happening to the Panthers. I think it's a national plan for police repression. One must conclude this is not an isolated incident."

"I think the Panthers have a right to exist... but if they commit an illegal act they should be arrested."

Dymally said, "The raid should have been carried out in broad daylight, so citizens could have a chance to

protect themselves. Daylight is not so filled with intrigue, attack and combat."

### **Ill. Prosecutor to Probe Panther Leader's Death**

*From News Dispatches*

CHICAGO, Dec. 8 — State Attorney General William J. Scott announced plans today for a full-scale inquiry into last week's slaying of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton during a police raid on his Chicago West Side apartment.

The announcement of the probe into the pre-dawn raid by 14 plainclothes policemen came amid allegations by Negro and civil rights groups in the Chicago area that Hampton had been "murdered" by police as he lay asleep in bed.

Another Panther leader, 22-year-old Mark Clark from

Peoria, Ill., also died in a blaze of gunfire during the raid. Four of the seven other Panther members on the premises, including two teen-age girls, were seriously wounded.

James B. Thompson, the attorney general's law enforcement director, said, "We want to determine if there is a possible violation of state civil rights laws... we promise a full investigation of the facts that are available to us."

Meanwhile, officials of Maywood Village — a western Chicago suburb where Hampton was raised demanded that murder charges be filed against the police that made the raid.

Maywood Mayor Leonard Chabala, who visited Hampton's bloodstained and bullet-riddled apartment over the weekend, described the killings of Hampton and Clark as a "blatant act of murder."

Thomas Strieker, a white trustee of Maywood Village, said there were no marks of firing in Hampton's apartment "from the inside out. It was firing from the outside in."

An investigation on the federal level was demanded by Roy Innis, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, who called on President Nixon, Attorney General John N. Mitchell and Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley to take action.

Jay Miller, Illinois director of the American Civil Liberties Union, asked for an inquiry into a whole range of reported Panther slayings. A total of 28 Panther members have died in clashes with police since Jan. 1, 1968.

Syd Finley, NAACP mid-west regional director, said that telegrams have been sent to Mitchell, Daley, and Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie, asking that each conduct an investigation of what police called a gunfight and Finley termed "modern lynchings."

Two Chicago aldermen, William Cousins Jr. and A. A. Rayner, requested a meeting with Daley to discuss the two deaths.



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A Los Angeles policeman covers a man who left the headquarters of the Black Panthers. The Panthers and police battled for four hours.

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